

THE QUARRY

Charge

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1. EXT. STREET PATH. DAY

1

Rushing rain hits the pavement.

Dark clouds cast a shadow over the entire suburb.

At first, the street seems desolate.

A bicycle light fading on and off can be seen making its way up from the distance of the footpath.

NORA, a sixteen year old girl, breathes heavily as she pedals her bicycle with her bulging school bag strapped behind her. She has a silver helmet on and is dressed in her bright green summer uniform.

CUT TO:

2. INT. NORA'S BEDROOM. DAY

2

FLASHBACK:

A futuristic digital clock rings: the time is eight twenty -five. A caption reading, 'History exam first period' flashes under the displayed time.

Nora in her pyjamas springs out of bed with her history textbook falling off her face. She brushes back locks of her straight hair. She looks towards the digital clock on the side of her bed and rushes to a window displaying a night sky that becomes transparent by the touch of her fingers.

She sees the school bus leaving her street in the pouring rain. Nora drops her head down and gasps.

3. EXT. STREET PATH. DAY

3

Raindrops pour down her exhausted face. As she pedals she looks at her digital watch and sees that the time is eight fifty-nine. Her mouth is wide open; she inhales and exhales.

A red car speeds past Nora, sending a wave of gutter water splashing all over her. She takes a hand off one of the handle bars and raises it towards the air.

NORA

Hey! This is a forty zone,
jerk!

She bows her head, huffing and puffing.

Her watch flashes: the time is nine o'clock.

Wiping her wet face, she pedals faster.

Growing in the distance is the faint sound of lightning getting louder.

Nora slipstreams through the rain at a steady pace.

A bolt of lightning strikes Nora. She is sent flying along with her bike over a nearby hedge.

Everything goes black!

4. EXT. STREET PATH. ONE HOUR LATER

4

Nora's eyes open, the rain has stopped, and all she sees is grey sky. Her uniform is intact, but it is ruffled around the edges.

She turns to her side to see her bike smelted black.

She frantically gets up and takes off her helmet. Her straight hair is now all fuzzy. She runs her hands around her body; her expression shows relief that she is in one piece.

She looks at her watch.

NORA

Shit!

The display of the watch shows an array of flashing digits. She shakes the watch as the display emits a blue light blinding Nora and causing her to shield her eyes. She unbuckles her watch and throws it out to the road. As it hits the tar the flashing screen dies. She jumps over the hedge and breaks into a run.

5. INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY. DAY

5

Nora's face is flushed red. With her head down she gasps for air as she walks along the marble white concave corridor, unaware of the fading florescent lights she walks under.

She passes by a LED poster that animates the following: 'Relax, & enjoy your exams!' A smiley face appears.

The LED screen fizzles out; the smiley face turns into a sad face and the screen goes black.

Nora comes to a halt. She turns her head facing the doorway to her history room. She takes a deep breath and before she can place her hand on the button that opens the door, it slides open.

The school bell rings.

A sea of STUDENTS exit out of the room weaving their way around Nora who manages to stand still. She examines their faces which are full of relief and joy. Some of the students take a quick glimpse of Nora while the majority give her long stares upon seeing her fuzzy hair and the state of her uniform.

Three girls, MANDY, SHARON, and CASSANDRA giggle past Nora. Their summer uniforms are sleeveless, they wear loose bangles, and their cheeks blush of pink makeup.

Nora's fingers clench, her eyes shut.

CASSANDRA (O/S)

Looks like someone left the hair dryer in the sink.

Her eyes open. She gasps aware that her fine, radiant locks are now all fuzzy. She strokes her hair trying to straighten it out.

GABBY (O/S)

Nora, about time!

GABBY emerges from the room and approaches Nora.

NORA

Well... There were some complications along the way.

Nora sees JASON from within the classroom as he is about to finish his conversation with MR HISTORANT. She sees Jason heading out. She stops pulling her hair and fixes her scrunched uniform. She extends her hand and shows Gabby her open palm.

NORA (CONT'D)

Gabby, quick! A comb!

Gabby turns around and does an, 'Oh' expression.

Jason exits the room and walks towards their direction.

Gabby turns to Nora, giving her a wave and then walking off.

Nora places her hands by her side.

Jason walks towards her.

Nora sways from side to side smiling. A strand of fuzzy hair falls over her forehead. Her eyes roll up as she blows the strand away.

NORA

Jason.

JASON

Hey, you look... fresh.

NORA

Uh, thanks.

They both stare at each other awkwardly. Jason lifts the collar of his uniform while Nora whistles.

He takes a deep breath as if he is about to say something.

CASSANDRA (O/S)

There you are!

Cassandra loops her arms around Jason giving Nora an envious smile. He looks uncomfortably at Cassandra, then looks at Nora with a blank face.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)

So, we still good for this afternoon?

Jason tries to fidget out of her grip. But she holds on to him smiling, her pristine white teeth showing, her mascara eyes gazing into his.

JASON

Huh? Cassandra, did we arrange...

Nora looks on with her teeth clenching. She raises her hands in protest, but is cut off by the squealing of Cassandra who is now jumping with joy.

CASSANDRA

It's a date!

She pulls him away further down the hallway. Nora can only stand still as she looks on. The fluorescent light above her fizzes.

Nora stands before Mr Historant by his table.

MR HISTORANT

Woke up on the wrong side of
the bed, did we?

NORA

Not quite...

Mr Historant crosses his arms.

MR HISTORANT

Your habit of coming in late
isn't doing you any favour,
Nora.

Mr Historant points his fingers at her as she starts to
cringe.

MR HISTORANT (CONT'D)

I'm going to have to fail you.

Nora's body stiffens.

NORA

You can't! I mean, I would
have come in five minutes late
anyway if I wasn't...

He places his hands on his temples rubbing them.

MR HISTORANT

Let me guess, you caught the
wrong bus?

Nora opens her mouth, but Mr Historant stops her by
hissing.

MR HISTORANT (CONT'D)

You missed the bus? No, wait!
I got it, the bus didn't come
on time!

Nora drops her shoulders.

NORA

I was hit by lightning!

He raises his hands in the air.

MR HISTORANT

Wow... Out of all my years in teaching, this has got to be the first.

NORA

I swear, it happened. I've got my bike to prove it! I just have to get it back...

The lights around the room flicker frantically as Nora says this. They both look around the room and then lock eyes.

Mr Historant pulls out a form and places it on the table. Grabbing a fountain pen from his pocket, he hands the pen over to her.

MR HISTORANT

I want you to sign this.

Mr Historant fixes his eyes on Nora, his face is tense.

NORA

No! I'm not signing anything!

A crackle of thunder is heard.

MR HISTORANT

Do you want to be suspended?
Is that what you want?

Nora bites her bottom lip. She lets out a sigh and grabs the fountain pen. Mr Historant falls to the floor.

Nora shouts and drops the pen. It hits the floor as electrical currents jump out.

She bends down and performs CPR on her teacher. She does a compression which causes Mr Historant to violently jolt from the ground.

She stands up with her hands across her mouth.

CUT TO:

7. INT. HISTORY CLASS ROOM. THRITY MINUTES LATER 7

Mr Historant is lying on a stretcher as a group of PARAMEDICS roll him out of the classroom. Nora watches as PRINCIPAL ALICE stands next to her.

PRINCIPAL ALICE

Nora, I am so proud of you!
Most students wouldn't have
known what to do. You should
be very proud of your actions.

Nora bites her bottom lip.

NORA

I guess.

8. INT. MEDICAL BAY. DAY

8

Nora sits on the edge of the bed. DAHELPER is wearing latex gloves as she shines a torch on Nora's left eye.

DAHELPER

So, you say you were
electrocuted?

Nora nods her head.

Dahelper shines the torch on her right eye.

DAHELPER (CONT'D)

And, you're not feeling any
numbness or a headache?

Dahelper turns the torch off and places it in her pocket.

NORA

Nope, but I got this feeling
pulsating through me, like
this great mass of energy
running through my veins.

Nora claps her hands.

NORA (CONT'D)

Ready to burst!

She does an explosion gesture with her two hands.

DAHELPER

Uh, huh...

Dahelper takes notes on her clipboard, and then turns to the drawer on her side pulling it open. She takes out a couple of pink pills and hands it over to Nora.

DAHELPER (CONT'D)

You're still recovering from
the shock dear, this should
settle you down.

Nora looks at the pills with an expression of surprise.

DAHELPER (CONT'D)

Plus, seeing your teacher
collapse must have been
traumatic for you.

Nora clasps the tablets.

NORA

I think I caused him to
collapse.

She opens her fist to reveal pink powder.

DAHELPER

A stroke Nora, he had a
stroke.

NORA

Because of me.

DAHELPER

We sometimes say things that
may allude to other problems,
like at home maybe?

Nora's mouth opens as if she is about to say something.

DAHELPER (CONT'D)

Do your parents make you feel
like you're being blamed for
everything you do?

Nora gets up dropping her arms. The crushed powder in her
palm sprinkles to the ground.

NORA

No! What are you talking
about? Nothing's happening. My
parents love me dearly.

DAHELPER

Just calm down, we can talk
this through...

NORA
We won't. Because you don't
believe me!

CUT TO:

9. INT. GIRLS' BATHROOM. DAY **9**

Nora looks into the mirror staring at her own reflection.

NORA
You're not crazy.

She takes a deep breath.

She reaches for the tap but draws back in shock as soon as her fingers touch it.

She rubs her zapped fingers with her other hand, staring at her actions in the mirror.

NORA (CONT'D)
I've lost it.

10. INT. ROBOTICS CLASSROOM. DAY **10**

MR TINK TOP has his back to the class while drawing schematics on an illuminated digital board. The room is surrounded by various robots ranging from mechanical arms, sensory cars, self-controlled flying gliders, etc.

Nora approaches a green metallic glider placed on the work bench that is on the side of the room.

She turns to her right and sees Jason working on what appears to be a robotic hand. She smiles, but that smile soon vanishes as Cassandra stands next to him.

Nora sticks her tongue out.

She looks down at her machine and reaches for it with one of her fingers as she shuts her eyes.

The tip of her finger touches the metallic casing.

Her eyes open.

She rests her entire palm on the glider and while doing this, Nora blows a sigh of relief.

She starts pulling away the metallic casing. Before her is a complicated circuit board with a bunch of wires criss-crossing everywhere.

She turns an eye and sees Cassandra caressing Jason's arm. She focuses her attention on the circuit board while pulling the wires frantically and rearranging them.

Jason tries to look over his shoulder towards Nora, but his view point is blocked by the gleaming gaze of Cassandra.

Nora pulls more wires and blows a strand of hair that falls on her forehead.

She turns her head to see that Cassandra is provocatively leaning over Jason.

Sparks fly out of the circuit board and zap Nora's fingers.

NORA

AH, FUCK!

The whole class stares at Nora. She looks in silence, with a blank expression on her face. Jason and Cassandra look on, her hand placed on his cheek.

From the front of the room Mr Tink Top crosses his arms.

MR TINK TOP

Watch that mouth of yours!

NORA

Sorry...

Nora bends her head down and looks at her glider. Students around the room gradually get back to working on their own robots.

Jason looks at Nora, her hands are on the edges of the bench with her head bowed down. Cassandra clings on his shirt.

CASSANDRA

She has issues. You know that, right?

He takes a step towards Nora with Cassandra still clinging onto him. Gabby approaches Nora and seeing this, Jason takes a step back.

Nora turns her head towards Gabby.

GABBY

Can you at least show some
signs of normality?

NORA

Normality? There is nothing
normal about this day!

Behind Nora, the exposed circuit of the glider sparks,
making a faint hissing noise.

NORA (CONT'D)

How can I, when it's been
nothing but one disaster after
another?

The red light on the nose of the glider flashes.

GABBY

Are you on drugs?

Nora cringes her nose and clenches her fist.

The glider hovers its way up.

NORA

No! How long have you known
me? Why would I be?

The glider is now above Nora's head.

GABBY

Uhh... you had difficulties
getting your glider to fly,
right?

NORA

Yeah, so?

Nora turns around and sees the glider, her expression is
that of awe.

NORA (CONT'D)

What the?

MR TINK TOP (O/S)

Shut it down, Nora!

The eyes of the entire class are on Nora. Gabby moves
away. Nora takes a step forward and jumps with her two

hands stretching out. She grabs the glider pulling it down. She struggles to settle the glider down as it violently sways to and fro. Her face is that of anguish.

NORA

Why won't you come down?

Sparks fly out of her palms and flow through the exposed circuit board of the glider. The glider makes a hissing malfunctioning noise and zooms out of her hand.

Shrieks fill the room. Students duck for cover as the glider flies in low and then high.

Nora looks with an open mouth.

CASSANDRA

You're such a screw up!

Nora turns to look at Cassandra.

Jason clings on to Cassandra trying to calm her down.

NORA

Oh, would you just shut up!

Nora sees the glider approaching her.

NORA (CONT'D)

Oh, no!

She ducks. Cassandra turns around and quickly follows suit. Jason jumps to the side knocking over a nearby female student. The glider flies above them releasing bolts of electricity that fly into Jason's mechanical arm. The mechanical arm springs to life grabbing Cassandra from behind and pulling her up from the ground.

Cassandra screams as the arm pulls her up higher and higher. She looks out the window and sees a group of male students staring under her skirt with their mouths wide open.

CASSANDRA

AHHH! GET ME DOWN!

Jason pulls her down and they both collapse on the floor.

More sparks fly out of the glider as it circles the room activating the other robots scattered around the class.

Various robots lined along the work benches spring to life. A robot frog jumps on a girl's head as she runs screaming.

A student with an Afro hair style runs from a chasing helicopter. The helicopter flies upside down, flying over the boy and cutting half his Afro hair off.

Gabby runs to the door as a tank situated on a workbench fires foam bullets at her.

The lights of a robotic car spring to life as it jumps off the workshop bench and down to the floor, zig zagging its way past running legs and past the legs of Mr Tink Top who runs around.

MR TINK TOP

Everyone, out!

Everyone scrambles out of the room. Jason pulls Cassandra to her feet and clings on to her as they run towards the exit.

Nora runs to the door, her glider comes swooping down striking the back of her head. She falls to her knees. Mr Tink Top runs grabbing her by the arm. He pulls back shaking his hand.

MR TINK TOP (CONT'D)

Come on, Nora.

Nora slowly gets up grunting. Mr Tink Top sees the glider swooping down towards them again. He takes Nora by the arm and as he does this he screams in pain. They exit out of the room. The sliding door shuts.

11. INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY. DAY

11

Mr Tink Top is lying on the floor. Nora looks over him rubbing the back of her head. They are surrounded by the rest of the class.

NORA

Please, tell me you're okay?

He opens his eyes as he slowly he gets up.

MR TINK TOP

I think so...

Gabby approaches Nora.

GABBY

How could you ruin all our
designs?

The student with the cut Afro brushes along Gabby, in his
hands are curls of his own hair.

STUDENT

AND MY HAIR!

Nora takes a step back.

MR TINK TOP

Now calm down, you can't blame
her for a faulty spark in her
glider.

Cassandra dashes out, her face raging red.

CASSANDRA

Did you see the humiliation
you caused me?

The class start shouting at her and blaming her.

NORA

You think I wanted this to
happen?

Jason looks around and sees faces full of anguish.

JASON

Guys, calm down!

Nora covers her ears and shakes her head. She screams.
She runs down the hallway with each florescent light she
runs under exploding with sparks.

The class panics. The fire alarm rings. All the sliding
doors in the hallway open as students flock out.

Jason leaves Cassandra's side and runs after Nora weaving
in and out of students.

12. EXT. PARK. DAY

12

Nora sits under a lone maple tree crying her eyes out.
She rests her head against the tree and shuts her eyes.

Red petals dance their way around the park with the help
of the brewing wind. The petals fly around the tree Nora

sits under. One of the petals lands on the tip of her nose and slides off. She opens her eyes.

Electrical currents circulate around the petals as they stop swirling around the tree and remain still. She turns her head to either side. Her head drops. The electrical currents swirl the petals around the tree. The maple tree can be seen up from a high distance as petals burst out from all directions.

Nora looks at the petals that scatter around the park. Petals fall down slowly as the residue of electrical sparks slowly smother them to ashes. Nora looks down her lap and picks up a lone red petal, the same one that fell on her nose earlier. She examines it and blows it away. She closes her watery eyes.

The red petal hits Jason on the cheek. He touches his cheek putting the petal in his hands.

JASON

There you are.

Nora opens her eyes.

NORA

Leave me alone. Haven't you got some other girl wrapped around your arms already? I'm sure she's missing you right now.

Jason bites his lip and clears his throat.

JASON

Nora... I like you!

She looks away from him then hesitantly turns her head towards him.

NORA

Well, you shouldn't. I'll only end up hurting you.

JASON

I'll take my chances.

NORA

I'm serious Jason, stay away from me!

Nora gets up and turns her back against Jason. He places his hand lightly on her shoulder trying to stop her from running away.

Nora shuts her eyes at the touch of his hand.

Her eyes open, an echo of an explosion is heard.

Nora turns in shock, but that expression goes away once she sees Jason with his head turned. She turns her head seeing grey smoke fuming out of their school building out in the distance.

NORA

The robots...

She places a hand over her mouth.

NORA (CONT'D)

This is all my fault! I have to stop this.

JASON

Nora, this is crazy. You want your head to be chopped off this time?

Nora runs towards the school building looking back at Jason.

NORA

No, because it won't happen.

He scratches his head and runs after her.

13. INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY. DAY

13

Various robots zoom across the hallway, smashing into lockers, breaking hanging trophy walls, and breaking down class windows.

Nora walks down the hallway. The busted fluorescent lights she walks under spark brightly. Nora raises her arms across her chest creating an X symbol. Electric currents surround her entire body, her eyes glow electrically blue. She unleashes her arms as sparks fly out.

The sparks hit all the robots in the hallway as they malfunction and cease to operate.

Nora's glider flies through from down the hallway charging down at her. She takes a side step avoiding the glider which flies across the hallway only to turn back and target her once more. Nora's eyes glow statically brighter. The glider charges down at Nora only to come to halt an inch away from her nose. It falls to the ground. Nora does a sigh of relief, and with that the electricity surging around her body vanishes and her eyes stop glowing.

Jason stands behind Nora, she turns around and she sees him.

His expression is that of awe.

They approach each other.

Jason smiles.

JASON

You're, awesome you know that?

Nora smiles and starts walking down the hallway as Jason follows.

NORA

Yeah, I know.

Jason scratches his head.

Nora looks down.

JASON

Can I walk you home?

Nora brushes her hair to her side and looks at Jason smiling.

NORA

I'd love that.

Their hands touch.

Jason recoils back in shock.

Nora laughs as he shakes his hand.

He looks at Nora and joins in the laughter.

The tip of their fingers touch once more. Their individual fingers mesh against each other as they hold hands.

Jason turns his head.

JASON

So what else can you do?

Nora smiles as her eyes glow electrically blue.

NORA

You're going to like this one!

FADE TO:

Black.

Sparks of electricity is heard.

THE END.